

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22, and 24-30 are currently pending in this application, Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 having been amended, and Claims 29-30 having been added. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 10, 15, and 24 is found, for example, in Fig. 20 and its corresponding description in the present application. Support for new Claims 29-30 is found, for example, in Figs. 19, 20, 21A, and 2B, and their corresponding descriptions in the present specification. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 10-12, 15-19, and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,496) in view of Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,462, herein Hashimoto); and Claims 8 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Hashimoto, and further in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,719).

Fig. 20 of the present application shows a non-limiting example of the claimed internal parameter request signal. This exemplary internal parameter request signal includes both power supplied (P/S) portion selection information and internal parameter request information. As shown in Fig. 19 for a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, the internal parameter request signal is transmitted from the personal interface (PI) to the PPC controller, and the PPC controller transmits back an internal parameter value that corresponds to the information requested by the internal parameter request signal.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Hashimoto, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this ground of rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in

an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned...said internal parameter request signal includes a signal that requests information from the image forming device concerned.”

The outstanding Office Action acknowledges that Okazawa does not expressly disclose a power supplied portion setting unit.<sup>1</sup> The outstanding Office Action relies on Hashimoto to disclose the claimed power supplied portion setting unit and the internal parameter request signal.<sup>2</sup>

The outstanding Office Action takes the position that command code 80 H of Hashimoto equates to the claimed “internal parameter request signal.”<sup>3</sup> However, Hashimoto discloses that the sleep mode designation is made by a 2-byte command, and that the video controller 27 sends a command code 80 H as the first byte and a predetermined command code at the second byte to designate the sleep level.<sup>4</sup> Hashimoto’s command code 80 H denotes the sleep mode designation command, and is not an internal parameter request signal. As clarified by the present amendment to Claim 1, the internal parameter request signal includes both a power-supplied portion selection signal and a signal that requests information from the image forming device concerned.

Hashimoto’s command 80 H and the first byte and the predetermined command code at the second byte are the integral code to designate the sleep mode. Hashimoto’s 2-byte command does not include a signal that requests information from the image forming device.

Furthermore, Kimura does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Okazawa and Hashimoto.

In view of the above noted distinctions, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 (and Claims 2-5, 8, and 29 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Okazawa,

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<sup>1</sup> Office Action, August 23, 2006, page 5.

<sup>2</sup> Office Action, August 23, 2006, pages 5-6.

<sup>3</sup> Office Action, August 23, 2006, page 2.

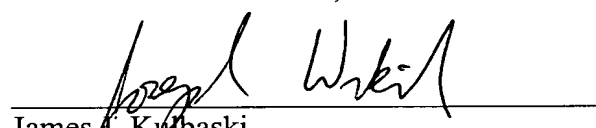
<sup>4</sup> Hashimoto, col. 6, lines 56-59 and Fig. 7.

Hashimoto, and Kimura, taken alone or in proper combination. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10, 15, and 24 are similar to Claim 1, and that Claims 10, 15, and 24 (and Claims 11, 12, 16-19, 22, 25-28, and 30 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Okazawa, Hashimoto, and Kimura, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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